



Acer Predator 17.3" Repairability Assessment

Repairability Assessment for the Acer Predator 17.3" gaming laptop performed on January 30, 2017.

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INTRODUCTION

Acer's Predator 17.3" is a high-end gaming laptop with a hefty spec sheet and an equally hefty price tag. Luckily, it has a modular design and is easy to disassemble, earning an 8 on our repairability scale.



TOOLS:

- [Phillips #0 Screwdriver](#) (1)
 - [Spudger](#) (1)
 - [Tweezers](#) (1)
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Step 1 — Acer Predator 17.3" Repairability Assessment



- Reference packaging shot.

Step 2



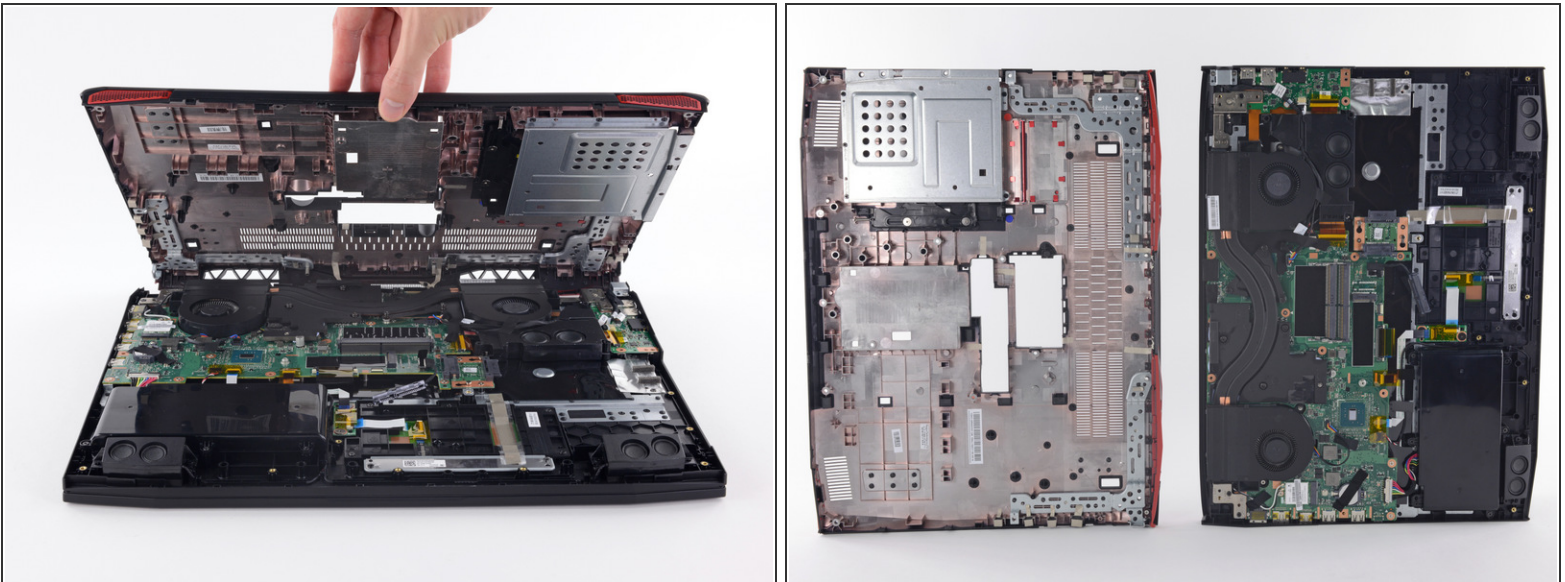
- Device reference shots.

Step 3



- A single latch secures the optical drive—no tools are required to remove it.
- Two screws release the cover for the hard drive, M.2 SSD, and two of the four RAM slots.
- The hard drive is secured by a rubber casing that uses friction to hold it in place.
- One screw secures the SSD.

Step 4



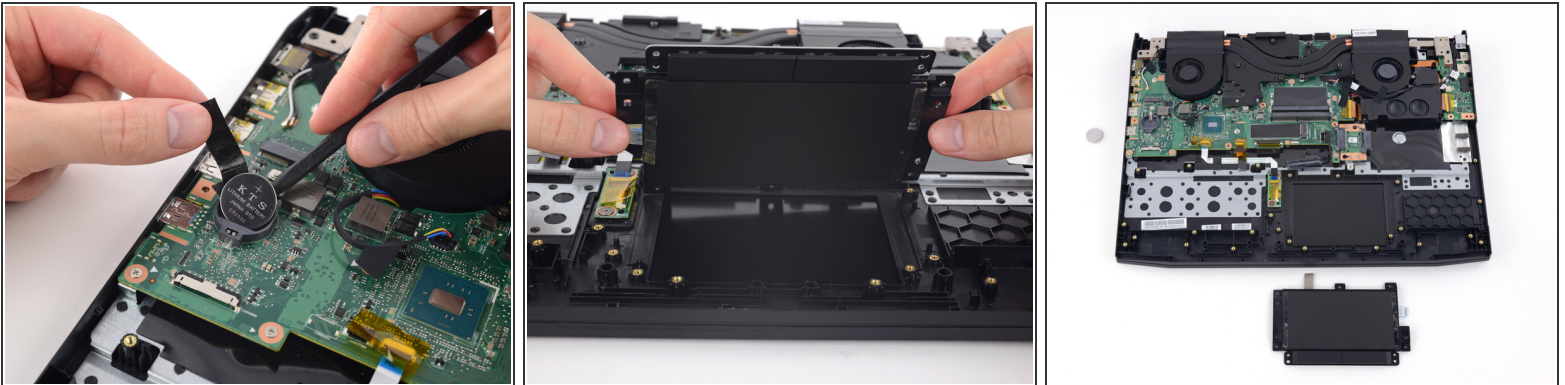
- Twenty Phillips screws and a lot of clips secure the rear case to the computer. Removing it takes some patience, but gives unfettered access to the internals.
- Internal view of the computer.

Step 5



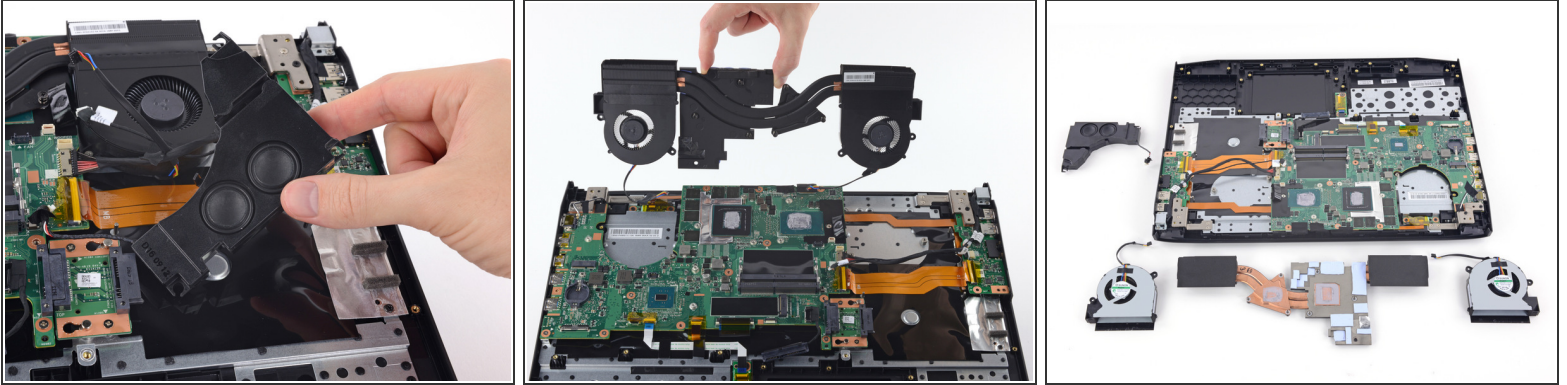
- The battery is secured by six Phillips screws. A spudger can be used to disconnect the battery.
- The wireless card is secured by one Phillips screw and slides into a PCI slot.
- Two screws secure each primary speaker, and their cables route to a single connector on the motherboard.

Step 6



- Beneath this piece of tape, a standard CMOS battery can be pried out with a spudger.
- Seven Phillips screws secure the trackpad and button assembly.
- Layout shot of the removed CMOS battery and trackpad.

Step 7



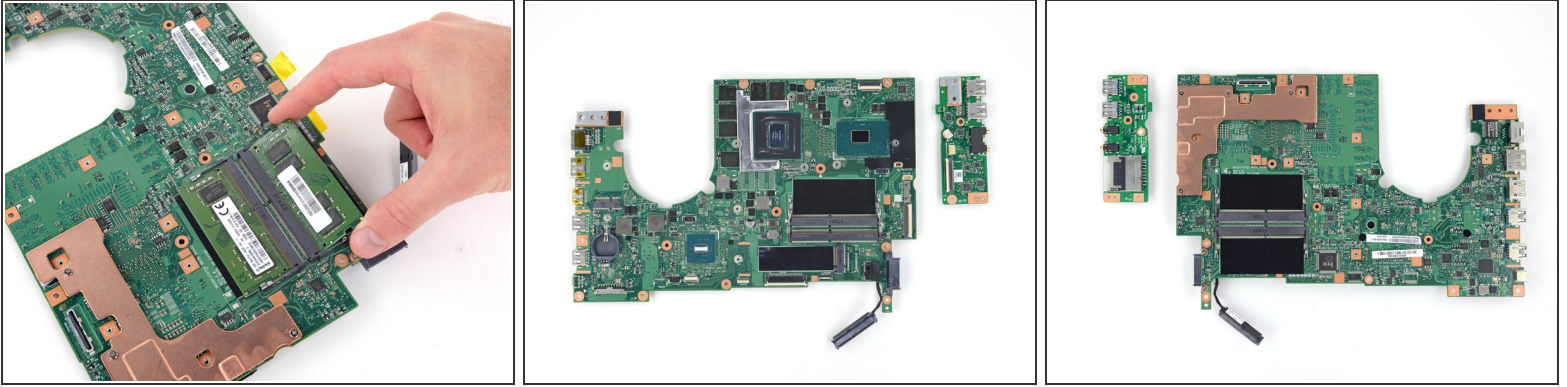
- The subwoofer is modular and lifts out after detangling a few cables. The three screws securing it were among the twenty removed from the bottom case.
- The heat sink screw positions are numbered for correct/even pressure during installation.
- Fans are simply taped to the heat sink, and can be removed individually or as an assembly.

Step 8



- The display hinge screws must be removed and the hinges flipped up to free the motherboard or I/O board (both of which are also secured by additional screws).
- One display cable connector is hidden on the underside of the motherboard, but we discovered later that it's easy to access with the hinge trim cover removed.
- Besides the motherboard and I/O board, there are breakout boards for the power button, macro buttons, trackpad, and SSD.
- The power button board lies beneath the motherboard—modular, but troublesome to access.

Step 9



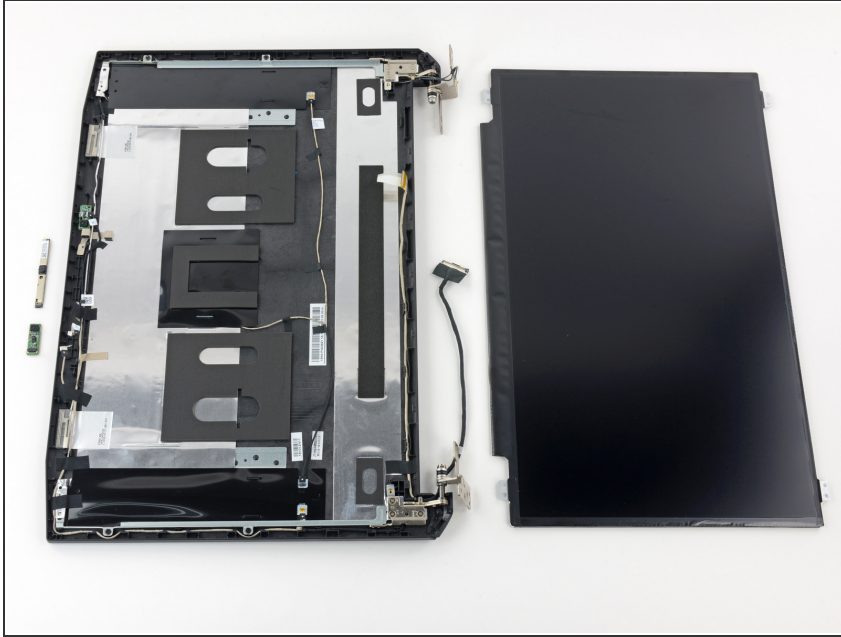
- Factory installed RAM is on the underside of the motherboard, and requires a bit of disassembly to access.
- The front and back motherboard and I/O board shots.

Step 10



- Prying up the clips around the perimeter of the display hinge cover frees it from the chassis.
- Now the display assembly comes free.
- Disassembling the display involves using a pick to separate clips and a small amount of adhesive.

Step 11

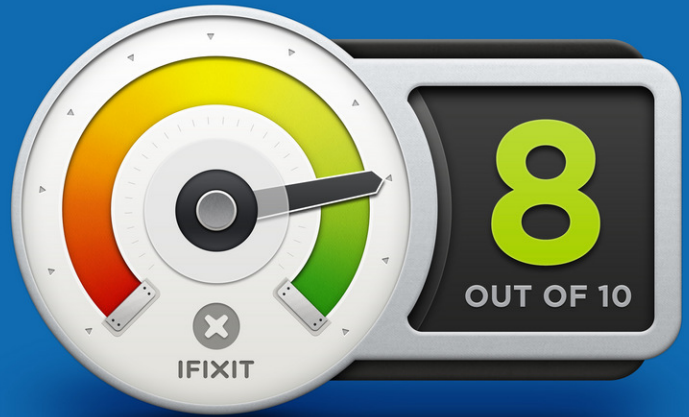


- Four screws secure the display; once they're free, it lifts out easily.
- The web cam and accessory boards are lightly adhered in place along the top bezel.

Step 12



REPAIRABILITY SCORE:



- The Acer Predator 17.3" earns an **8 out of 10** on our repairability scale (10 is the easiest to repair):
 - A single latch releases the optical drive—no tools required.
 - A single panel gives access to the SSD, HDD, and two RAM slots.
 - Phillips screws are used throughout, with minimal use of glue.
 - Removing the bottom case takes a little patience, but gives access to the battery, wi-fi card, CMOS battery, touchpad, speakers, and fans.
 - The keyboard is not readily serviceable.
 - Manufacturer does not provide user-accessible repair documentation.

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